

WASHINGTON CRITIC



EVERY EVENING.
BY THE
WASHINGTON CRITIC COMPANY,
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OFFICE: 935 D STREET N. W.,
Fifth Building,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TERMS:
Single Copy.....2 Cents
By Mail, postage paid, one month.....\$1.00
By Mail, postage paid, six months.....\$5.00
By Mail, postage paid, one year.....\$10.00
Mail subscriptions in advance.

THE WASHINGTON CRITIC,
Washington, D. C.
WASHINGTON, MARCH 14, 1889.

NEW YORK'S NEED.

New York is in trouble. The Legislature of the State of New York have enacted a law making death by electricity the method of execution in that State, and New York editors have begun to cast about for a word with which to express this new style of device, just as "hanging" describes another method. So far, this word has not been found. Various terms have been suggested, but none seems to fill the bill, so to speak. The word should be one which, if possible, may be used by a change either as verb or noun, and none has been offered meeting this requirement gracefully. Here is a situation where Washington may lead New York. There are at the National Capital many learned—people, many clever people and many good-natured people. Surely some one here may suggest the word required. The Critic asks for communications on this interesting subject.

The word must be a new one, of course. It should be one which is of an adaptable form and such also in the pronunciation that it will popularize itself. Colonel P. Donan, that contented ringer and off-hand talker, says to The Critic that "electrocution" is the word needed. To "electrocute" would then indicate the killing of a man by electricity; "electrocision" would describe the manner of his death; and "electrocide" would be the killing of him by such means as "electrocution," and so on. Perhaps the Colonel is right. The words given have many elements commending them to popular usage.

Whatever the word may be, or should be, it is hoped some clever Washingtonian will discover it and send it to The Critic, that it may be given to the world at once. This is an emergency in which New York should really be aided.

THE DAKOTA WAY.

The story which comes from South Dakota—it may not be true—of the scheme for controlling the location of the Capital of that State will illustrate the progressive character of Dakota politics. The plan, in brief, is as follows: A corporation has been organized with a capital stock of \$1,000,000. The capital stock is divided into 100,000 shares of \$10 each, and these are to be sold to the voters of the Territory, and when all the stock is taken the company will make a purchase of a large tract of land at such city or place as seems to offer the best inducements and have the most favorable chance of securing the location of the Capital. When by notifying their stockholders throughout the Territory of the place selected for investment, they secure the votes of all the stockholders and the scheme is accomplished.

Where but in daring progressive Dakota could such a scheme have been devised and put into execution? It is fascinating in its acute simplicity. It is a broad-gauge plan, one which conveys the idea of "getting there" in an open, defiant and breezy way, which is very striking. Just wait until the Dakotas get fairly into national politics as States. As already remarked in The Critic the Ohio man must look to his laurels.

AN INSULT TO VETERANS.

Cook County, Ill.—the county in which Chicago is situated—clothes its paupers in the blue of the United States army. The Herald of Chicago is sensible enough and patriotic enough to protest and wants to hear from Grand Army posts on the subject. It should hear from a great many of them. The thing is an outrage.

It can hardly be a pleasant thing for a veteran to look upon the inmates of the Cook County poorhouse. The paupers in such a city as Chicago should not remind the observer of the men who fought to save the Union. It is to be hoped the Chicago Herald will be successful in enforcing the change it demands. It is said that the blue suits for the paupers are from some cause cheaper than others. That is a pitiful excuse for the action of the Chicago authorities.

New Yorkers are discussing the possibility of enlarging their city by taking in Brooklyn and such other suburbs as are in the same State. Arguments pro and con are offered, and the general sentiment favors the enlargement. It is bad policy, all the same, and the best evidence to that effect is the city of London, which is now almost unmanageably large, and rapidly approaching a condition which may be best described as dangerous. The growing of London, with its rapidly increasing population, causes more anxiety to the mind of the English statesman than does impulsive Ireland, and New York will be wise not to get into the condition London now is.

THE CURRENT POLITICIAN is just at present more interested in the office he hopes for than he is in the important results of a protective tariff on the industries of the country. The tariff is getting a long-needed rest.

GOVERNOR HILL says: "I am a Democrat," and sticks to it. He also says: "I am a bachelor," but there is a waver

THE TOWN'S MOUTH.

In his voice which is portentous, believe that, as Shakespeare "Cupid has thumped him with his bolt."

NEW HAMPSHIRE has concluded a general vote to take no water liquor.

THE Fiftieth Congress will go in history as the pneumoniacs.

HENRY COOK, engineer of the first train that crashed into the excursion train at Mud Run, Pa., yesterday, testified that he had been at work for over three hours previous to being ordered to stop that day. He declared that he had served every signal, but that the engineer in the cab had created a coating on the window and he was unable to see ahead unless he looked through the partly-open window on the front of the engine. The engineer's story was apparently truthful one. Perhaps he had not overworked the accident might have occurred just the same, but the chance that he had been alert and wide-awake would have been somewhat seen the danger time to avoid it. There ought to be difficulty in fixing the responsibility in such a case.

In this country is going to get into more Samson difficulties in other quarters of the globe, it is urgently requested that some country be selected with which we have telegraphic connection.

CONGRESSMAN "ALEX." TAYLOR of Kansas is right when he says that from now on what will make his State go publican, Iron and coal are great Republican agencies.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY this year will be quite the national holiday it has been in four years' past. Explanation is not necessary.

HEREAFTER a man will not be eligible to the Governorship of West Virginia unless he was born triplex.

MR. CLEVELAND has been earning his wages since he went to work in New York.

MAYOR GRANT of New York will Hewittize the Irish on St. Patrick's Day.

UP TO DATE, Brother Flanagan of Texas has not discovered what he is here for.

MR. HARRISON has not done any "ghostly" business yet.

MARIE.

You break men's hearts, sweet Marie,
By pretty ways and looks,
And eke like broken pocket-books.
Come home, come home!

CRITICAL.

COME HOME, come home!

Ferry, dear Perry, come home to me now,
The clock in your chapel's run down,
I knew you were coming right home from Madrid,
As soon as I struck Washington.

As soon as I struck Washington—
Come home, come home;
Dear Perry, sweet Perry,
Come home!

[From "Unsung Songs," by J. G. Blaine.

This is sent in by a young man in the Treasury Department.

KISMET.

The morning breaks, and with its light,
Comes heavy head and heavy sight,
A dull remembrance of the night—
The morning breaks and so do I.

The man with low spirits has hypochondria,
But the man with high spirits never has low-pochochondria.

A K-street girl with a tender heart calls it Mash Wednesday.

Chicago Mother to New York Dancing Master: So you have taught my daughter to dance?

D. M.: I am proud to say, madam, I have.

Chicago Mother: Well, a dozen teachers have tried it before you and failed. You certainly have accomplished a great feat.

D. M.: Ah, thank you, madam. I have accomplished two great feats.

Mrs. Dubarré: I hear, Mrs. Hongward, that Mr. and Mrs. Jayball have separated.

Mrs. Hongward: Yes, and all on account of Mrs. Jayball's temper. Why that woman is a perfect tempest.

Although one may utilize another in conversation he generally flatters himself.

The Blue Disgraced.

[Chicago Herald.]

What shall be done about the fact that Cook County clothes its paupers in the blue of the United States Army? True, this garb is cheap; it was cheap in war times in more senses than one. Yet there was always a margin of profit for the contractors who dealt heavily in it. The glorious blue of a generation ago has been discolored many times of late, but there really seems to be no good reason why it should be adopted as the regulation dress in a poorhouse. Let us hear from the Grand Army posts on this question. It is a felony in some States to wear a Grand Army badge without proper authority; why should it not be equally offensive to the veterans to see the uniforms in which they served the country made the distinguishing feature of the paupers of a great city?

What Ben. Will Do.

[Chicago News.]

If Ben. Butler goes to Berlin as one of the representatives of the United States to the Samoan conference, Prince Bismarck might as well call him by his ship's name at sea. Ben. will show conclusively that Samoa was one of the original thirteen States of the American Union.

Candid Confession.

[Chicago Herald.]

Dr. Henson has been sermonizing on hell again. The Herald has been showing up the same sort of late. There is a good-sized section of it right here in Chicago.

Mumt, at Least.

Mrs. Langtry says she had to give up the part of Lady Macbeth on account of her health. And yet we have an idea that there was any sickness occasioned by her personation of that character, most of it was distributed through the audience.

Might Show His Ankles.

Dudish, who wears the big style of trousers—Charles, is it all etiquette for the gentleman to precede the lady in going upstairs?

"Of course, always."

"Oh dear, I never could do it, you know, in this style of trousers." [Chicago Herald.]

Wildly Improbable.

"I had a delightful dream last night, Alfred."

"What was it, my dear?"

"I dreamed that I had a Directorate that cost \$100."

"You ought to stop reading Rider Haggard."

"Why ought I?"

"You would have no such wildly-improbable dreams, my dear, if you did." [Chicago Herald.]

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